GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3746
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
DISCUSSION WITH POPE JOHN PAUL
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues of discussion between Prime Minister and Pope John Paul at Vatican;

(b) whether till the time of departure to Rome the Prime Minister had received theentire feed back through the Home Ministry pertaining to the atrocities on Christians in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Prime Ministercalled on Pope John Paul II on 26th June 2000 duringhis visit to Italy. Various issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Though crime prevention is the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government has been maintaining close contact with the various State Governments with regard to the incidents of attacks that have taken place on Christians and their institutions, as also about preventive and precautionary measures to safeguard the interests of the minority communities and ensuring peace and communal harmony.